

Serial No.: 10/037,882

REMARKS

Claims 11, 14, 15, 26, 29 and 30 remain in the application. By this amendment, claims 1-10, 12, 13, 16-25, 27, 28 and 31-34 have been canceled.

Indication of Allowance

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 11, 14, 15, 26, 29 and 30 are allowed.

Claim Rejections Based on Yamagishi et al.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 13, 16-24, 27 and 28 have once again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0038669 to Yamagishi et al.

In response, Applicants reluctantly cancel claims 1, 3-10, 12, 13, 16-24, 27 and 28 in order to expedite issuance of claims 11, 14, 15, 26, 29 and 30 of the present application. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 13, 16-24, 27 and 28 will instead be presented in a continuation application claiming priority to the present application.

Claim Rejections Based on Yamagishi et al. in view of Goldman et al.

Claims 2 and 25 have again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(2) as being unpatentable over Yamagishi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,369,031 to Goldman et al. The patent office has submitted that Yamagishi et al. discloses all elements of claims 2 and 25 except for the use of thermal-based flow meters, but that Goldman et al. discloses the use of thermal-based flow meters.

In response, Applicants reluctantly cancel claims 2 and 25 in order to expedite issuance of

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claims 11, 14, 15, 26, 29 and 30 of the present application. Claims 2 and 25 will instead be presented in a continuation application claiming priority to the present application.

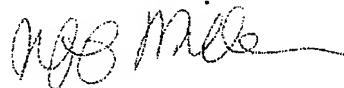
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, applicant believes that claims 11, 14, 15, 26, 29 and 30 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be required; however, if a fee is required, or otherwise necessary to cover any deficiency in fees already paid, authorization is hereby given to charge our deposit account no. 50-1133.

Respectfully submitted,
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